

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of September 23, 2009, has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended, is respectfully requested.

Status of the application.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 9-21, with claims 1 and 15 being independent, remain pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 15 and 17 are amended.

In the Office Action of September 23, 2009, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-14, 20 and 21 were allowed. Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,815,665 ("Teper") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,397,329 ("Aiello"); claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Teper and Aiello in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0011351 ("Sako"); and claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Teper and Aiello in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,234,059 ("Beaver").

Applicants after carefully considering the Examiner's rejections, together with the comments provided in support thereof, traverse these rejections and submit that claims 15-19 are patentably distinct over the applied references.

Amendment to claim 15

Applicants note that on page 3 of the present Office Action the Examiner states that claim 1 is allowed based on its recitation of "authenticating the client by producing an anonymous signature of the initialization token, the signatures being obtained using a private key associated with said public key and opening an anonymous authentication session with the server, wherein said anonymous signature is a unique signature used for said authentication session".

Applicants have now correspondingly amended independent claim 15 to recite:

an anonymous signature unique to the session and comprising a series of tokens is used to open and maintain each session ... wherein a client is authenticated by producing the anonymous signature of the initialization token, the signatures being obtained using a private key associated with a public key and opening the authentication session with a server.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, the prior art fails to teach this use of an initialization token of a series of tokens as defined by the claim to produce the anonymous signature.

Because claim 15 has now been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Claim 17 has been amended to accord with amended claim 15, from which it depends.

Claims 16-19 depend from, and thus contain all of the limitations of, claim 15. Thus, claims 16-19 should also be allowed.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any such additional fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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